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Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/524,120	NOUEL, JEAN-MARIE
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Joshua D. Zimmerman	2854

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to application filed 02/10/2005.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-9.
3. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All
 - b) Some*
 - c) None
 of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of
 Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 03/07/2005
4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. Other _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the prior art neither teaches nor renders obvious the claimed invention, specifically the use of an inactivated solvent in combination with the remaining claim limitations.

The invention corresponds to a method of copying a printing plate, wherein droplets of a *solvent* are deposited on the surface of a *photosensitive* layer, said layer being on top of a base substrate (emphasis added). Further, claim 1 requires that the solvent a) dissolve (be charged with) the photosensitive layer and then (b) be *inactive* (emphasis added). Subsequently, the printing plate is rinsed, wherein the inactivated, charged solvent is removed.

The closest prior art, US 2003/0085972 (Schaschek et al.), involves a very similar method, wherein a solvent is deposited in droplets on the surface of a printing plate, dissolving the top layer, which is subsequently removed. While specifically suggesting a waterless printing plate with the top layer being a silicone layer, paragraph 12 does allow the possibility of other printing plates, such as photosensitive plates. However, the instant application requires the solvent be *inactive* when the printing plate is rinsed. Schaschek et al. do not disclose or suggest that the solvent be rendered inactive (such as by exposing the printing plate or cooling the solvent, as suggested by applicant in the examples) prior to rinsing, and in fact, the solvent of Schaschek et al. is most definitely still active when the top layer is removed.

US 5,655,446 to Watanabe discloses a similar method to JP 10119230 to Schaschek et al.

Takeda involves ink-jetting droplets to the surface of a printing plate, dissolving the imaged areas and becoming inactive. Subsequently, the printing plate is rinsed with water to remove the imaged areas. While this process is similar to the applicant's invention, it differs because the droplets deposited on the surface of the printing plate do not act as a solvent, and actually react with the printing plate surface, creating a salt that is water-soluble.

No documents could be found that teach or suggest combining either of the above-mentioned references with the use of a solvent (which inherently does not react with the surface) that becomes inactive with a photosensitive layer order to copy a printing plate. Thus, the application is found in condition for allowance.

2. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Joshua D. Zimmerman whose telephone number is 571-272-2749. The examiner can normally be reached on M-R 8:30A - 6:00P, Alternate Fridays 8:30A-5:00P.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew Hirshfeld can be reached on 571-272-2168. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Joshua D Zimmerman
Examiner
Art Unit 2854

jdz


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